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Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—" May I know the amount of dhobi allowance given? I understand it is Rs. 2 per mensem, but the nurses are obliged to spend on this account Rs. 8 to Rs. 10. And so, will the Hon. Minister consider the desirability of increasing the dhobi allowance?"

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY:—" I think the dhobi allowance is Rs. 2 per mensem."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI:—" Was the ration allowance given before the increase in prices, say in 1939 also?"

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY:—" The ration allowance was being given; but it was enhanced because the prices had gone up."

Sri P. VENKATESWARLU:—" May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that the dhobi charges they are paying come to Rs. 8 per mensem, whether the Government will consider the question of enhancing the dhobi allowance to Rs. 8 per mensem?"

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY:—" I have no information about the dhobi charges which the nurses have to incur, Sir."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI:—" In view of the fact that prices of rations have increased by nearly $4\frac{1}{2}$ times since 1939, will the Government increase the ration allowance also at least by 50 per cent?"

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY:—" The ration allowance was increased because prices went up."

Sri S. RAMALINGAM:—" In view of the fact that the ration allowance and other allowances were given to meet personal expenditure, will the Government consider the desirability of increasing the dearness allowance as it is meant for the family?"

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" Sir, all these are questions of policy in finance and I understand the Opposition is preparing for financial sabotage. We are trying our best to put a barrage against this."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM:—" May I know, Sir, whether any question relating to the emoluments and amenities to Government employees means 'financial sabotage' and will the Hon. the Chief Minister give this House the benefit of his definition of 'financial sabotage'?"

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—" I shall give it, Sir, on a proper occasion, but not at question time."

Elections to Municipal Councils, District Boards and Panchayats.

* 37 *Q.*—Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the elections to Municipal Councils, District Boards and Panchayat Boards are scheduled to take place on the basis of adult suffrage;

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(*b*) whether there is any change in the time schedule fixed by the previous Ministry; and

(*c*) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—" (*a*) *Municipal Councils.*—The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards who is the Election Authority has been asked to conduct elections to all Municipal Councils so that the new councillors may come into office on 1st November 1952.

District Boards.—The question of elections to District Boards is still under consideration.

Panchayats.—Preparations are being made to hold elections to existing panchayats as soon as possible. These elections will be held in groups in each district one by one.

" (*b*) & (*c*) No time schedule was fixed by the previous Ministry for elections to Municipal Councils, District Boards and Panchayats."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM:—" In the matter of elections to municipalities, the Corporation of Madras has made some representations to the Government and may I know whether they have considered them?"

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:—" May I know, Sir, whether the elections to District Boards and Panchayats will be completed before the end of this year?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—" It is under the consideration of the Government. Only elections to Panchayat Boards are to be completed this year."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that 25 out of 80 seats in the Madras Corporation are based . . .?"

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member should not read his question."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that in the elections to the Madras City Corporation Council, election to 25 out of 80 seats is based on communal representation and representation of Chambers of Commerce, in direct contravention of the basic principles of the Constitution of India?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—" We are considering the question of elections to Municipal Councils and Panchayats only. The life of the present Madras City Corporation Council extends only up to 1st November 1952 and so the elections have to be conducted."

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Sri P. THIMMA REDDI :—" In view of the fact that elections to District Boards are postponed, is there any proposal to appoint Special Officers for the District Boards till the elections are held? "

The Hon. Sri N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The question is under consideration."

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" In view of the information of the Hon. Minister that elections to District Boards are far off, is the Minister aware that Pudukkottai has had no representation on the Tiruchirappalli District Board even though $3\frac{1}{2}$ years have elapsed since merger, and that the people are being subjected to taxation without representation? May I also know whether some representatives of Pudukkottai will be nominated to the District Board? "

The Hon. Sri N. SANKARA REDDI :—" In case the elections to District Boards are postponed, the question of nominating some people to the present District Board will be considered."

Sri V. V. RAMASAMI :—" If Special Officers are to be appointed to the District Boards, may I know, Sir, whether they will be officials or non-officials? "

The Hon. Sri N. SANKARA REDDI :—" It is still under consideration, Sir."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, in view of the fact that most of the District Board Presidents were defeated in the general elections, will the Hon. Minister consider the necessity of immediately holding elections to the District Boards also instead of deferring them? "

The Hon. Sri N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Sir, the elections to District Boards also will be ordered; but not now."

Sri VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH :—" పంచాయతీ చట్టంలో సూచింపబడిన డైరెక్టు ఎలెక్షన్ పద్ధతిని మార్పుచేసే ఉద్దేశ్యంతో పంచాయతీ ఎన్నికలను ప్రభుత్వంవారు postpone చేయాలని అనుకొంటున్నారనే విషయం నిజమేనా ? "

The Hon. Sri N. SANKARA REDDI :—" చట్టం మార్చే సంగతి ఆలోచనలో ఉంది. ఎన్నికల విషయం యేమి చేయదలచింది ఇప్పుడు చెప్పలేను "

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Are the Government aware that delimitation of constituencies in all these municipalities have been done without reference to population and therefore will they consider the question of delimiting the constituencies on the basis of population before holding elections? "

The Hon. Sri N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Delimitation of wards was done in consultation with the municipalities concerned and also on representations from the public and their representatives."

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SRI A. GOVINDASAMY NAYAGAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the number of members will be increased as there is increase in the number of voters?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—"According to the increase in population, the number of wards also is increased."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI:—"Does the Hon. Minister know, Sir, that when consultations were made with the municipalities, there were certain vested interests and that the delimitation of constituencies has now to be done with reference to the Representation of the People Act?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—"The suggestions and representations from the municipalities are properly examined by the Government before delimitation is done."

Protection of forests in Udayarpalayam estate.

* 38 *Q*.—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the dates when the forests which were under the control of the zamindars in Udayarpalayam taluk were taken over by the Government on the abolition of the zamins;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that a portion of the forest area has been converted into cultivable waste; and

(*c*) what steps have the Government taken to prevent the forests from depletion?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"(*a*) The Udayarpalayam estate was taken over under the Abolition Act on 3rd January 1951. The forests in the estate were also taken over with it on the same date.

"(*b*) No such report has reached the Government.

"(*c*) The Government have sanctioned the employment of certain staff for the protection of these forests."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know, Sir, after the forests are taken over by the Government, whether the peasants there are enjoying the same rights as they used to enjoy under the zamindars?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—"Probably they may be enjoying better rights."

SRI G. LATCHANNA:—"Has any representation been made to the Government about the wrongful utilization of the forests which have been taken over by the Government from the recently acquired estates?" 8-45 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I think the hon. Member may put a separate question."